



Office of Police Ombudsman Commission

October 27, 2018

Meeting Minutes: 5:15

Meeting called to order at 11:40

Attendance:

- OPOC present: Ladd Smith, Jenny Rose, James Wilburn, Jr., Elizabeth Kelley
- Legal Counsel: Dennis Hession
- OPO Staff Members present: Bart Logue, Luvimae Omana, Christina Coty
- Retreat Facilitator: Brian Corr

❖ *The OPOC engaged in open discussion on the below listed items*

Welcome and Orientation

- Introductions/Logistics
- Agenda review
- Icebreaker activity
- Conversation Norms: How we agree to work together today

Goals for Retreat

- What are the issues / concerns
 - Safe/better community
 - How to keep the “independent voice”
 - Assist with education and outreach
 - When impeded, how to assist asserting authority
 - Staying relevant
 - Being proactive/reactive
 - Expose passion
 - Influence and convene
- Discuss the vision and mission structure
 - Difference between non-binding resolution and the ordinance

Commission and its Role

- Review of the position of the OPOC within the City of Spokane (municipal government)
- The role of the Commission
 - Appoint, supervise, evaluate the Ombudsman
 - Approve OPO goals, procedures and rules, Annual Report
 - Approve recommendations from the Ombudsman about police policies & training
 - Confirm or reject OPO requests for additional investigation by IA if the Ombudsman is not satisfied with the finding of the Police Chief
 - To promote public awareness of the work of the Office and the Commission to “Spokane’s diverse communities and the general public about the complaint filing and investigation process”;
 - Make readily available all Commission reports, recommendations, and evaluations
 - Prepare an Annual Report to the City Council
- Review of Pre-Retreat Environmental Scan

- Brian, the facilitator, surveyed random community members to test the public's awareness of the OPO/OPOC
 - People think Ombudsman is important
 - Police are seen as too heavy handed in their ongoing behavior
 - People know about the Ombudsman and know it's necessary while understanding the balance of powers
 - The community is changing and the expectation of transparency and accountability are increasing
- What should the OPOC do in order to be meaningful and/or be useful is?

Goals for the OPOC

- Establish procedural process to address issues that arise
 - Determine steps the OPOC will take to elevate and issue
- Community Outreach – How do we get out to the community more and how do we get the community to be engaged with us
 - Social Media – Increase the presence and post meaningful items
 - Meeting invitations to special interest groups
 - Meeting layout – adjust this to be more public speaker friendly
 - Get information out to the community: i.e. Channel 5 Video (internal), Public Access TV (external), public interest group publications (i.e. Black Lens)
- Voice concerns of the community to the City Council
- Commission Engagement between meetings
 - Agenda Subcommittees
 - Outreach, racial disparity, Annual Report, Recommendations, Complaint Review, Other
- Support efforts of the OPO
 - Provide guidance to the OPO, especially with overcoming obstacles

Action items

- Replace vacant Commissioner spot
 - Contact Councilmember Fagan and Councilmember Burke
- Change the next meeting from November 20 to November 13
 - Unanimously approved
 - Cancellation notice, special meeting notification published
- Ad-hoc subcommittee nominations at next meeting
- Written Vision/Mission statement

Motion Passes or Fails: 1

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:45PM

Note: Minutes are summarized by staff.

<https://my.spokanecity.org/bcc/commissions/ombudsman-commission/>